

Council Report

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Jeff Geimer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: July 9, 2013

RE: Charter Senior High School Application

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending adoption of the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to establish the City of North Miami Charter School for grades nine through twelve.

BACKGROUND

In April 2013, the City began the process of investigating the feasibility of opening a charter senior high school on the western eight acres of the Claude Pepper Park property. A project team consisting of the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Community Planning and Development Director and the Director of Parks and Recreation was formed to determine if the project was feasible and, if feasible, move the project along. The investigative phase included bringing a consultant on-board to assist with the process, initial discussions with existing charter school builders, developers, and management companies, meetings with potential partners, and the development of a preliminary budget to determine if the project could financially succeed.

In June 2013, the project team determined that a charter senior high school in this area would be feasible and chose to move ahead with the charter school application. A letter of intent to submit an application was forwarded to Miami-Dade County Public Schools on June 24.

The deadline imposed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools for submission of a charter school application is August 1, 2013.



Council Report

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The School Board staff will spend the next three months reviewing and evaluating all of the submitted applications. In November 2013, the applications will be submitted to the School Board for consideration. Upon approval, charter school contract negotiations will take place. In the first quarter of 2014, public hearings will be held and the contract will be executed.

In August 2014, the school will be opened to ninth and tenth grade students. Over the next two years, eleventh (2015) and twelfth (2016) grades will be added and the first graduation for seniors will take place in the spring of 2017.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution
Letter of Intent



June 24, 2013

Ms. Tiffanie Pauline, Assistant Superintendent
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Charter School Support
1450 NE Second Avenue, 8th Floor
Miami, FL 33132

Dear Ms. Pauline:

Please accept this as the City of North Miami's letter of intent to submit a charter school application on or before August 1, 2013 by 4:30 pm. The focus/theme of the charter school will be:

"The City of North Miami Charter School will provide students with the state of the art technological tools that will develop the 21st Century skills necessary for graduation and a successful transition into the workplace."

The projected student enrollment breakdown by year with appropriate grades and enrollment are as follows:

Year 1: 2014-2015 – Grades 9 through 10 – up to 550 students
Year 2: 2015-2016 – Grades 9 through 11 – up to 875 students
Year 3: 2016-2017 – Grades 9 through 12 – up to 1200 students
Year 4: 2017-2018 – Grades 9 through 12 – up to 1300 students
Year 5: 2018-2019 – Grades 9 through 12 – up to 1300 students

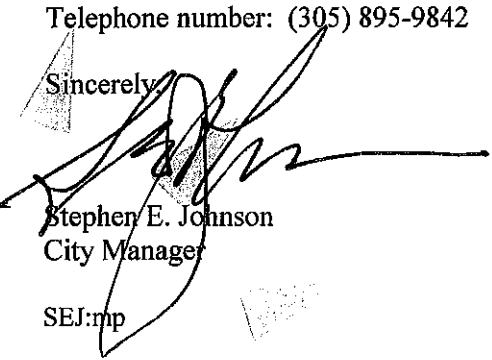
The facility to be used and the location, or current options for a school facility is the western portion of the City of North Miami Claude Pepper Park property located at 1525 N.W. 135 Street, North Miami, Florida 33167.

Name of the charter school's authorized contact person: Jeff Geimer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Mailing address: 12300 N.E. 8 Avenue, North Miami, FL Zip Code: 33161

Telephone number: (305) 895-9842

Sincerely,


Stephen E. Johnson
City Manager

SEJ:mp